

# НОВОСТИ

25 февраля 2006

*Grinnell College Russian Department*

Greetings from the Russian Department and the Russian and Eastern European Studies Concentration. Novosti is a newsletter put out once or twice each semester with news about Russian Department and Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies (RCEES) activities.

We wish you all a pleasant and successful spring semester. We have a lot of exciting events planned, we hope you will join us for some or all of them! Watch for “e-novosti” throughout the semester for updates on events and breaking news.

## **Welcome Back!**

We extend special greetings to returning veterans of off-campus study programs. **Adrienne Celt '06** studied last semester on an American Council of Teachers of Russian (ACTR) sponsored program in St. Petersburg, and **Leann Wilson '07** participated in the ACTR fall semester program in Moscow sponsored by ACTR. **Nick Johnson '06** and **Kate Francis '07** studied in Olomouc, Czech Republic, in a program sponsored by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM).

## **Good Luck!**

We also wish the very best to those students currently studying on programs this spring.

**Lindsey Martin '07** is currently in Moscow, and **Amanda Smith '07** is in Vladimir, Russia. Both are on ACTR Russian programs.

## **Russian Language Assistant Office Hours**

Students should be aware that our Russian Language Assistant, **Maria Elova** holds regular office hours in **ARH 221**. Bring your questions, your homework, your reading! Maria is there to answer all (or most) of your questions about Russian.

Maria's office hours:

Monday: 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Tuesday: 6-7:30 p.m.

Thursday: 4-5:30 p.m.

## **Welcome to New Majors and Concentrators!**

The Russian Department extends a warm welcome to our newest majors, **Ashley Cunningham '08**; **Wyatt Montague '08**, **Morgan Wajda-Levie '08** and **Claire Wenngren '08**. Some of you are in the process of declaring, so if we've forgotten anyone, let us know!

New RCEES Concentrators include **Kate Francis '07** and **Esprit Eugster '08**.

## **Russian Department SEPC ~ Spring 2006**

Members of the SEPC this semester include **Molly Goodwin-Kucinsky '06**, **Elisabeth Kruger '06**, **Avram Lyon '06**, **Sarah Moss '06**, and **Meghan Redd '06**. They have already begun work on several events, including a celebration of Maslenitsa (see below).

## Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies at Grinnell

The staff of the Russian Department and colleagues in other departments work together in promoting the study of the languages, culture, and history of the former Soviet Union and the lands which are usually designated as Central and Eastern European. The Russian Department consists of the following members:

**Kelly Herold**, chair, ARH 232C [HEROLDK]

**Raquel Greene** ARH 232A [GREENER] (on leave),

**Helen Scott**, ARH 217D [SCOTTH]

**Anatoly Vishevsky**, ARH 232B [VISHEVSK]

**Todd Armstrong**, Mears 113 [ARMSTRON]

In addition to members of the Russian Department, faculty in other departments have specializations in Russian, Central, and Eastern European Studies, and are members of the RCEES committee:

**Robert Grey**, Pol. Science, CARN 205 [GREY]

**David Ellison**, Pol. Sci., CARN 105 [ELLISON]

**Daniel Kaiser**, History, Mears 216 [KAISER]

**John Rommereim**, Music, BCA 205 [ROMMER]

If you are interested in the Russian Central and East European Studies Concentration, please contact **Anatoly Vishevsky**.

## Upcoming Russian Department Events

### Maslenitsa! Масленица!

The Russian Department SEPC will host this year's Maslenitsa celebration this **Sunday, February 26** at **Russian House (1217 Park Street)**. Cooking will start at 12 noon, and the actual celebrations will start at 1:00. Maslenitsa is a Russian folk holiday that dates back to pagan times. In pagan tradition a sun festival, it

celebrates the imminent end of the winter. In Orthodox Christianity, Maslenitsa is the last week before the beginning of Lent.

The essential element of the Maslenitsa celebration are bliny. They are round and golden as the sun, and are made from rich foods still allowed by the Orthodox traditions: butter, eggs, and milk. Maslenitsa also includes masquerades, snowball fights, sledding, and plenty of sleigh rides. The mascot of the celebration is usually a brightly-dressed straw effigy of Baba Zima. At the culmination of the celebration, Baba Zima is stripped of her finery, and thrown into a bonfire.

Come join us for блины and help us say farewell to winter, Russian-style!

But remember: **Первый блин—комом!**

### Watch for Slavic Coffeehouse

The Russian Department will hold our annual Slavic Coffeehouse after spring break. Students meet at kitchens on campus and in professors' homes, and prepare a variety of exotic treats from the Slavic kitchen, to be sold with coffee and tea that evening in the Forum Coffeehouse. Our musical entertainment this year will be our visiting Russian bard, Timur Shaov. Proceeds from the evening will be used to fund activities at Russian House. Time and place TBA.

## Ongoing Russian ~ RCEES Events

### Russian Film Series

**Morgan Wajda-Levie '08**, Russian Department Student Secretary and self-described film-fanatic, continues his enthusiastic support of the weekly Russian Film Series. Screenings of Russian classics both old and new are held **every Saturday at 2:30** (unless otherwise announced) in the Cultural Education Center (a.k.a. the AV Center video lounge). All films are shown with subtitles; refreshments are occasionally offered, and everyone is welcome.

## РУССКИЙ СТОЛ

Russian Table is held on Fridays during the lunch hour in Cowles PDR. Participants go through the line in the dining hall to get their meals. We invite speakers of Russian *at every level* to join us for informal Russian conversation. Individuals not on board are guests of the Russian Department.  
**ПРИГЛАШАЕМ ВСЕХ ЖЕЛАЮЩИХ!**

## Český stol

Czech Table is held on Wednesdays during the lunch hour in the Forum Grill. Participants go through the line in the grill to get their meals. We invite speakers of Czech *at every level* to join us for informal Czech conversation.

## Russian and RCEES Guests

### 2006 John R. Heath Professor

The Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies Concentration, together with the Department of Religious Studies is pleased to announce the residency on campus of **Mr. Konstanty Gebert** of Warsaw, Poland. As the 2005-06 John R. Heath Professor, Mr. Gebert is teaching two special topics courses, "Polish-Jewish Relations in the 20th Century" (Religious Studies) and "Media and Ethnic Conflict" (Russian, Central and Eastern European Studies). He also participated in this semester's Rosenfield-Center for International Studies Symposium on Genocide, presenting "A Competition of Suffering: How Poles and Jews view the Shoah."

Konstanty Gebert graduated from the Warsaw University Psychology Department in 1976. He was co-founder of the (unofficial) Jewish Flying University in 1979 and of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews in 1980. Active in Solidarity, after avoiding internment in the 1981 coup, Gebert, under the pen name of Dawid Warszawski (which he still uses), became well known in the underground media. In 1989 he

covered the round table Solidarity-government talks on transition to democracy, and joined the new independent daily Gazeta Wyborcza, where he has remained active as a columnist and international reporter.

He is a frequent contributor to other Polish and international media, and in 1992-95 he covered the Bosnian war. In 1997 he founded, and till 2000 was editor-in-chief of, the Jewish intellectual monthly Midrasz, of which he is now the publisher. From 1995 till 2000 he was vice-chair, and since 2000 media consultant, of MDLF, an international credit fund for independent media. Since 2005, he is the Polish representative of the US Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture. He has worked with independent media in Russia, the Balkans and Latin America.

### Russian Artist-in-Residence

The Russian Department is pleased to announce the upcoming visit to campus by **Mr. Timur Shaov**. Mr. Shaov is medical doctor turned Russian poet and songwriter. His work follows in the rich tradition of the Russian bards—poets who sang their poems to their own tunes in the 1960s. At that time, their songs created a critical alternative to official communist propaganda songs.

The bard tradition did not die with the death of the communist system and the Soviet Union. There are a number of poet-singers, and Timur Shaov is known as one of the most popular of them. He is an intellectual bard; his songs are filled with literary and cultural allusions, while at the same time appealing musically to a wide audience. He has toured widely in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Byelorussia, Germany, Israel, Canada, and the United States.

Mr. Shaov will be in residence from April 3-May 12, and will co-teach with **Anatoly Vishevsky** in this semester's Russian senior seminar on the music and culture of the Russian bards. He will also give a concert in conjunction with Slavic

Coffeehouse later this semester (time and place TBA). Mr. Shaov comes to the department under the auspices of the Center for International Studies International Fellows Program.

## Mentored-Advanced Project (MAP) News

### Russian Department Student MAPs: Russian Theatre in Moscow

During last winter break, five students from RUS 495: Russian Theatre and Drama seminar traveled to Moscow with the aid of college funding for two weeks to intern in the following Moscow theaters: the MKhT named after Chekhov, the Mossovet Theatre, the Molodezhny Theatre, the Shkola Sovremennoi P'esy Theatre, and the Pushkin Theatre. **John Bowers '06**, **Brian Fritsch '06**, **Molly Goodwin-Kucinsky '06**, **Elisabeth Kruger '06** and **Sarah Moss '06** conducted interviews with actors and directors, participated in various aspects of technical work, and attended both rehearsals and productions of plays that they had studied over the course of the fall semester, as well as new works. These students will write an extensive MAP research paper based on their experiences, and will give a public presentation of their findings. The Russian Department is thankful to the College for its generous support of this third Russian Department MAP project.

### RCEES Concentrators to present MAPs at Midwest Slavic Studies Conference at the Ohio State University

The RCEES Concentration is pleased to announce that three seniors will present their MAP projects at the Midwest Slavic Conference March 2-4. **John Wepking '06** will present "In Praise of Smallness: The Impossibly Possible Humanism of T.G. Masaryk and Karel Čapek;" **Anna McNulty '06** will present "Polyphony and the Political: Dostoevsky, Bakhtin, Kundera, and the Transformation of the Modern Novel;" and

**C. Cain Elliott '06** will co-present with **Todd Armstrong** "Contemporary Polish Literature and the Holocaust: Redemption as Reckoning." Their papers form the panel *Transformations and Reckonings in Eastern European Literature*. Grinnellians will be interested in the keynote speaker at the conference as well: **Beth Holmgren '75** Professor of Russian and Polish Literature at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will present "Immigrant, Exile, Star: Helena Modjeska at the California Theatre."

### MAP student to present talk at National Czech and Slovak Museum

**Patrick Waldo '06**, who worked with **Anatoly Vishevsky** last summer in Prague will present his MAP project at the National Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. His talk is entitled "History, Memory, and Identity: Reflections on Nationalism and Alfons Mucha."

### Russian History summer MAPs

Dan Kaiser of the History Department will be working with **Sophie Church '07**, **Lindsey Martin '07**, **Jacob Schneider '07** and **Leann Wilson '07** on a project entitled "Household, Family and God in an early modern Russian Town." Students will be working with several documents from an 18th-century Tula parish church: the so-called *ispovednye vedomosti*, which listed all parishioners in a given year and whether they had or had not taken confession and the eucharist, and several *metricheskie knigi*, which listed all the christenings, marriages, and burials in a given year. All these texts have never been published, the originals being housed in the Gosudarstvennyi arkhiv Tul'skoi oblasti. Professor Kaiser acquired copies from microfilms of the originals now stored at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City and microfilmed for the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Student researchers will select a problem--perhaps investigating the dynamics of name

choices, or age at marriage, or size and organization of household--research the sources, and compose papers that will approximate the conventional article that appears in a scholarly journal.

## Funding Opportunities

### Mohan Russian Study Award

The purpose of the Russian Study Award is to provide students who have seriously pursued the study of Russian with an opportunity to develop their language skills in the Russian speaking world. The Award is intended to enable Grinnell College students to pursue a study program or a project of their own design after graduation. The study program or project must be initiated within the year following graduation.

Projects which tend to immerse the student in a Russian language environment and develop Russian language skills are favored and these may include: structured study programs (such as an ACTR semester), volunteerships, or internships, which have cultural, political or social value. See the Alumni section of the Russian Department's web page for examples of the many types of creative projects funded in the past.

The Award is drawn from funds raised by three devoted friends of the Russian Department: Diane Fisher Perkinson '82, Sharon McKee '82 and Emily Silliman '81.

The deadline for applying is the Friday before Spring Break. More detailed information about the Mohan Russian Study Award, as well as the downloadable application form can be found at <http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/russian/award/>.

### Anne K. Hanson '86 Memorial Award

This endowed scholarship was established in 1989 in memory of Anne K. Hanson '86 by her friends and family. Anne Hanson was a Russian

Studies major who went on the Grinnell College Interim Tour of the USSR during her senior year. The Award will be used to partially fund at least 1 student who wishes to take a Russian Summer intensive language program. The program must be approved by the chair of the Russian department and be completed prior to graduation from Grinnell College.

Selection for the Anne K. Hanson Memorial Award is made by the Russian Department faculty. The scholarship will partially fund student(s) to attend a summer language intensive course in Russian. Funds will be available for the next year if in a given year students are not selected. If the Russian Department faculty deem only one student exceptional, the department will consider providing full funding for the language intensive program. The award is paid directly to the student recipient.

Students may apply after completing one year of Russian language. To be considered, applicants must complete an application form and write an essay. Interviews with department faculty may be required. Please contact Kelly Herold [heroldk] for more information about applying for this award.

### Russian Language Internship

**Stephanie Hitzaler '96** brings the following opportunity to the attention of Russian majors.

Does the thought of exploring Russia's wilderness and experiencing life in its small, rural communities appeal to you? Or, could you envision yourself in a picturesque national park working alongside Russian educators at an ecological camp for children? If you have a strong interest in Russia, nature conservation, and being in the outdoors, please read further!

The non-profit organization, **American Association for the Support of Ecological Initiatives (AASEI)**, in conjunction with their Russian partner, **Adonis**, highly encourage you to apply to their summer internship program in northwest Russia. With an environmental and

cultural focus, this program introduces students to Russia's unique system of protected areas, and to the people who work in them. Besides interacting with protected area staff, students work closely with Russian college students who share similar interests in ecology and environmental issues. Students will also have the chance to share their environmental knowledge and other skills with Russian children in a camp setting. For more detailed information see their website at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/aasei/>.

We should add that Stephanie herself served as an intern on this program, and is currently acting director. AASEI was originally brought to our department's attention by former AASEI former director **Sandy Williams '91**; Sandy continues to serve as Vice President of AASEI. Most recently, **Isabelle Boittin '06** served as an intern in the summer of 2004. **Erin Schmidt '05** also spent a summer participating in this program.

### Recent Alumni News

Two members of the class of 2005 are currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers. **Erin Schmidt '05** is in Kenya, and **Ben Hanes '05** is in Ichnia, a town of about 15,000 in Chernihiv oblast, Ukraine. **Naomi Bethel '05** is in the graduate program in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Wisconsin, Madison Naomi received a Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship to study Serbo-Croatian as part of her program there. **Amy Donahue '05**, when she's not trying to sit in on Russian classes, is pursuing the Master of Library Science degree at the University of Washington in Seattle. **Coco Downey '04** (independent major in Chinese and Russian linguistics) is currently working as a proofreader in HAVEL & HOLASEK v.o.s.a law firm in Prague, Czech Republic, where **Mike Mullen '89** is a partner. **Josh Brody '04** is in his second year of the Master's program in the Slavic Department at the University of Chicago, and is teaching first-year Russian as a part of his teaching assistant duties.

### Upcoming Events in 2006-07

In the fall of 2006, the Department of Russian at Grinnell will be hosting a symposium co-sponsored by the Center for International Studies and the Rosenfield Program on "The Politics of Russian Popular Culture." We will host scholars from Russia, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, and the United States. **Professor Catharine Nepomnyashchy**, Director, Harriman Institute at Columbia University, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Russian Literature and Chair, Slavic Department, Barnard College, will give the keynote address, "Vovochka Meets Judo: Putin and Popular Culture."

In addition to the academic component of this symposium, accompanying events will include a concert by **Timur Shaov** (Russian bard), an exhibit of works and a presentation by Russian artist **Vitaly Komar**, and a main stage Grinnell College production of Bulgakov's "Master and Margarita" directed by renowned Russian director and long-time friend of the College **Veniamin Smekhov**.